(c) and (d) India believes that the reform and restructuring exercise is important and that by any objective criteria, India's case is credible and strong. There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership. The Government has been pursuing India's candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council, and has taken up India's case in all its high-level bilateral interactions. Several countries—permanent members as well as others—have openly expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. Such support is exercised in different forums and forms and it is, therefore, difficult to give a definitive number of countries which have specifically supported India or anticipate any specific time frame for reform or expansion of the UNSC, in view of the diverse perceptions on the specifics of such reforms.

Confidence Building measures between India and Pakistan

114. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Pak Foreign Minister to New Delhi, Pak agreed to a number of defence related Confidence Building Measures, but there could be no agreement on Siachen; and

(b) if so, what CBM's were agreed upon and what was the point of disagreement on issue relating to Siachen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (d) Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Khurshid M. Kasuri, accompanied by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, visited India from September 4-8, 2004 and held discussions with External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, on September 5-6, 2004. They reviewed the overall progress in the Composite Dialogue. The wide-ranging proposals on confidence building, promotion of friendly exchanges, and enhancing trade and economic cooperation, made by both the sides, were examined and it was agreed that these would be discussed further.

The two Ministers agreed to a number of technical level meetings on various subjects including, expert level meetings on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, *inter alia* to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the

Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MoU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, *inter alia* discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

They also agreed to the establishment of a Committee of Experts to consider issues related to trade; a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area; addition of a new category of Tourist Visa in the visa regime between the two countries, and to promote group tourism, set up a mechanism to deal with the issue of civilian prisoners and fishermen, effectively and speedily; undertake further measures for facilitation of visits to religious shrines, and upkeep of historical sites; and enhanced interaction and exchanges among the respective Foreign Offices including study tours of young diplomats/probationers to each other's country.

On the issue of Siachen, the two leaders agreed that the outcome of the August 2004, meeting of Defence Secretaries would be implemented.

Dialogue on Bilateral issues between India and Pakistan

115. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan and India agreed to continue serious sustained dialogue on bilateral issues after their talks on 7th to 8th September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been areas of disagreement on certain issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to reach on accord over the remaining issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) During their meeting on September 5-6, 2004, the Foreign Minister of India and Pakistan positively assessed the developments in India-Pakistan relations, and exchanged